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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 23, 2005, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2005

The Senate met at 9:31 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The guest Chaplain, Dr. Alan N. Keiran, Office of the Chaplain of the Senate, will lead the Senate in prayer.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of second and third chances, help us to be as patient with each other as You are with us. Even as You forgive us when we don't deserve it, give us the grace to show mercy to others. As You see what we can become instead of who we are, infuse us with optimism so we may become all You want us to be.

God, the times require wisdom and courage. Give our Senators the wisdom not to mortgage the future for today's ephemeral successes, but strengthen them to stand for what is right and good and lasting. As You gave Your life for us, each day make us willing to die ourselves for the good of the many. We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ISAKSON thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Colorado is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Priscilla Owen to be a circuit judge for the Fifth Circuit. This will be the third consecutive day of debate on this well-qualified nominee. We have had a good debate on the Owen nomination, with a number of Members, on both sides of the aisle, speaking on the issue. As the majority leader announced yesterday, we will be seeking a unanimous consent agree-

ment to set a time certain for a confirmation vote on the Owen nomination. If an objection is raised to a time agreement, a cloture motion will be filed later today.

Also, as announced by the leader, there will be no rollcall votes today. The next rollcall vote will be on Monday, and that vote will likely be in relation to a motion to instruct in order to request the presence of absent Senators. Additional votes are possible on Monday, and the leader will update that schedule on Monday.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF PRISCILLA RICHMAN OWEN TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT—RESUMED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session for the consideration of calendar No. 71, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Priscilla Richman Owen, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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